

12
CONVENTION OF THE MUTES.

An Interesting Session in the House of Delegates.

A POEM IN THE SIGN LANGUAGE.

The Address of Welcome by Mayor Elyson.
Nearly a Hundred in the Assembly.
A Poem—The Banquet.

Perhaps no stranger assembly ever met in Richmond than that of the deaf-mutes who gathered yesterday in the hall of the House of Delegates. All of the proceedings were conducted in the sign language, and a queer silence pervaded the hall. When the address was made by the Mayor, or when any one spoke at all the words had to be spelled out on the hands of an interpreter or signed. The following report was written entirely by a deaf-mute who is directly connected with the Times, and will serve somewhat as an insight into the mysteries by their wonderful sign language, with which they converse almost as fluently as do those more abundantly blessed.

There was nearly a hundred deaf-mutes at the meeting in the hall of the House of Delegates yesterday. They had come from all portions of the State to have a reunion and form a State association, and while some were old men with gray hair a large portion of the entire number were young, and many were ladies. Everything passed off happily, and together it was a very pretty affair and most promising to the aid and general welfare of the deaf of Virginia.

At the opening time the galleries were filled with spectators, and the session was a most interesting one. There were very few on the floor who were not deaf-mutes, and the most notable was Mayor J. Taylor Elyson, who had come to welcome them, and for whom every deaf-mute now has a warm place in his heart.

Mr. John W. Michaels called the meeting to order and was made temporary chairman. Rev. Job Turner, missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church to the deaf in the Southern States, was then called on to lead in prayer, his subject being interpreted orally by Professor Guilford D. Enrit, a teacher of the State school. Mr. W. C. Ritter was chosen temporary secretary and Joseph Laube, of this city, sergeant at arms.

Mr. Michaels then explained the object of the meeting, which has for its main points liberal education and their general advancement, and then introduced Mr. Elyson, who made a most pleasant speech of a half hour, telling the deaf-mutes they were welcome in Richmond, and had for people's best wishes. He himself was often called upon to say something concerning the deaf-mutes, and he gave them plain words of advice, and expressed much hope for their betterment, and encouraged them greatly. He congratulated them on their great progress and prosperity during the past half century, and wished them God speed. The Mayor was interpreted by Professor Enrit, and at the close of his speech was heartily applauded.

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After matters pertaining to membership and the membership fee, which was fixed at \$1.00, were disposed of, the session was taken up with the names of Mr. Edwin Allen Hodgson, editor of the Deaf Mute Journal, New York City; Professor Thomas Francis Fox, of New York; Mr. Alexander L. Pach, of Pennsylvania; Mr. George E. Porter, of Arkansas; Captain Thomas Doyle, of Staunton, and Professor Isaac Humbert, of Staunton, and Mr. McCreary, of West Virginia, were enrolled in consideration of their deep interest so kindly and given towards the meeting.

Next followed a feature of the morning's proceedings, a pretty girl of about eighteen recited in signs the following, lending to the words beauty and impressiveness that spoken language will not convey. The young lady was Miss Sarah Allen, one of the recent graduates of the State school, Professor Enrit read the words for the benefit of those who could hear:

Daylight is dawning.
Homeward are flying
Birds to the soft, dewy nest.
The sun hides his head
In the dark ocean's bed,
And thou on heart that loves best
Sweet flowers are sleeping,
Pale mists are creeping
Over the mead up the hill,
In the shadowing nooks
By the rippling brooks
Whose water are quite and still.
Through the cloud's silvery lace
The moon's gentle face
Beams with a tender good-night.
When whisper thy prayer
On the calm, solemn air
And slumber till morning is bright.
May the stars, as they shine
On the jewel of mine,
Not find thee, my darling, awake;
But smile of contentment
With fond angels keeping
Watch for the Holy One's sake.

The various committees were then formed, and the convention, just before noon, took a recess until 3 P. M.

At 3:10 the afternoon session began. Mr. William Christian, of Louisville, made the opening prayer.

Officers were then chosen. The following is the list: President, John W. Michaels, of Rockbridge; Vice-President, Arthur Tucker, of Petersburg; Secretary, William C. Ritter, of Louisville; Treasurer, Stephen C. Jones, of Knoxville. They all made speeches of thanks for the honor conferred.

The matter of adopting the constitution and by-laws occasioned some debate, and the name finally voted was "The Virginia Association of the Deaf." The resolutions were consumed several hours, and a short recess was in order during which time the deaf-mutes gathered on the eastern staircase of the building to be photographed by Mr. Pach, who came to this city for that purpose.

On returning to the hall Mr. George L. Dennis, of Rocky Mount, a member of the Board of the State school, made a happy address, telling his experience with the deaf and what he would do if he were a young man and knew the deaf-mute young ladies as well as he did now, and what he will ever endeavor to do for the deaf. His speech was heartily applauded.

LEGISLATION

The following committee on legislation for the purpose of presenting the resolution to the next Legislature were appointed: Colonel George E. Dennis, of the board of visitors; Captain Thomas S. Doyle, superintendent of the school of the deaf; Professor Isaac Humbert, teacher of the blind, and Mr. J. W. Michaels, president of the Virginia Association of the Deaf.

The resolutions were as follows: Whereas it is the opinion of those who have had many years' experience in teaching the deaf and the dumb and the blind, that far better results can be obtained by having them taught in separate institutions than by having the two classes (the deaf and the blind) taught in the same institution, and

Whereas it is the feeling and desire of the deaf-mutes of this State to put themselves on a plane with the deaf of other States, and to do this it is believed there is no better and shorter way than to have an institution separate and apart from the blind, and inasmuch as the blind and their educators concur in this opinion, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting do and cause to be a committee of five, to consist of two members of the board of direc-

tors, one member of the Virginia Association of the Deaf, one teacher of the blind department, and one of the deaf-mute department, to present whose duty it shall be to prepare a report on the subject of the deaf-mute education, and at its next session, explain the reasons and objects of this action, and to endeavor to secure the enactment of such laws as may be necessary and proper to carry it into effect.

Resolved, That the co-operation of the blind and deaf be secured in their education, and be earnestly requested in the furtherance of this measure.

The committee finally chosen to present this is made up of the older and most experienced men of the class.

NOTE OF THANKS.

Miss Allen again treated the convention to a very pretty recitation. This was entitled "The Mutes' Sister's Lament."

The convention passed several votes of thanks for services and courtesies rendered those coming to attend it. To Mayor Elyson the first was tendered, the next was to Mr. Elyson, and then to the faithful and whole-souled old janitor, Walker Howard, who had spent his fourth on duty that it might add to the pleasure and profit of an unfortunate class.

Mr. A. J. Ford for reducing rates of board and rent for the deaf-mutes, and for his kind attention and courtesy to the railroad companies granting the rate to deaf-mutes; to Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Fox, Mr. Pach and Mr. Porter, who had done great service in the formation of the association. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Russell and other daily papers for kindly mention, and after announcing the church services for deaf-mutes at St. John's at 11 A. M. and at St. James at 5 P. M. to-day, the convention adjourned to meet again within two years.

THE BANQUET.

At 9 o'clock last night Ford's was without a deaf-mute. They had all gone to Fitzhugh's, where they were for a couple of hours, the guests of Messrs. Tucker, Chiles, Laube, Heke, and Ball, of this city. The tables were prettily set off by cut flowers and potted plants, and a cover of blue and white was used.

Conversational music was served, and then came the toast and speech-making, though all of an impromptu nature. Mr. Michaels was toastmaster.

"The Glorious Fourth" was responded to by Mr. T. F. Fox, of New York, who said much that was complimentary to Richmond, and the convention, like our glorious country, born upon this day.

Mr. Ritter responded to "The Old Dominion" and said her deaf citizens had now started for the city yesterday.

Mr. Michaels responded to "Our Alma Mater," the old school at Staunton.

"Our Visiting Friends," Mr. George S. Porter spoke for, and said they had spent a glorious Fourth indeed.

Mr. E. J. Fox, of New York, next, by Mr. E. A. Hodgson, and gave the city papers a good send-off, and told his hearers that it was the newspaper men who never denied a good time to any deaf-mute whether he be after work or be assisted by a kind word or an act of justice.

To this, Jolly Alexander Pach, of Easton, responded. It was a happy effort.

Then the party left the dining-room for the parlors, but this being rather too small, and dancing they returned to Ford's, where until about twelve they tripped the light fantastic.

NOTES.

The convention was such as would be creditable to any State. Its value cannot be overestimated. To every visitor whole-souled hospitality and heartiness, and the deaf-mutes of this sort was manifested wherever he or she went.

The debates in some instances were lively though nothing beyond organization was done. In one instance Rev. Mr. Turner proposed to add to an article of the constitution, "and their spiritual welfare," whereupon several jumped to their feet and said that this was business and wholly secular. Mr. Fox took up for the latter and this caused Mr. Turner to quote Scripture, and both being the sign makers, there was something wrong in the language they used pro and con on the resolution. It was appended.

Colonel Dennis, of Franklin, is greatly interested in the deaf, being also a member of the board. The Colonel has been with them ever since he reached the city, and he cannot use sign, he gets along fairly well.

Captain Meade F. White, of Staunton, came down at night and attended the banquet. He held a long levee at the hotel after midnight, his words being interpreted. He is interested in the deaf-mutes from the sole of his summer shoe to the top of his helmet, and his words had that fine old Faugny ring out and out. It is hard to say who is the more popular with the deaf-mutes, Captain White or Colonel Dennis. Mr. Ford would have come into this trinity had he not been known.

One, a familiar figure in mutedom, having a peevish disposition, was greatly missed at this affair until last night when the banquet was nearly over. Then he put in a good word for the deaf-mutes, and in a strange old-fashioned garb, stove pipe hat and beard. He had walked from Gordonsville, he said, and came near missing the reunion.

Mr. W. M. Capers, one of the gray-haired mute residents of this city, was a mediator between the deaf-mutes and the deaf-mutes, and with General Joe Johnston, enlisting in Corinth, Miss. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, and his stories of that doleful time pictured by signs much more vividly than spoken words could picture them. He was born a mute.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

The Guests Who Were Registered in Richmond Yesterday.

Davis House.—D. Rosenaur, J. H. Rose, William B. Taylor, New York; George R. Jones, Ohio; E. R. Butler, Lynchburg, Va.; S. Russell, Georgia; W. D. Olendorf, New York; John B. Gaines, M. M. Hawkins, Louisville, Ky.; A. H. Kahn, Baltimore, Md.; J. E. Thayer, New Orleans, La.; W. L. Edwards, I. L. Hodges, Portsmouth, Va.; L. R. Weil, New York; J. J. Leterman, Charlottesville, Va.; Edward Ritter, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. W. Boyer, R. C. Vandegriff, Sr., Charlottesville, Va.

Exchange Hotel.—P. Knippenberg, St. Louis; M. R. M. Lanchester, Baltimore, Md.; J. Edmonds Mason, W. H. Taylor, Richmond and Danville road; George E. Fisher, New York; Miss A. B. Tilton, Miss Tilton, Madison, Ind.; W. Buckner, Virginia; R. E. Brown, Chattanooga, Tenn.; J. H. Taylor, New York; Miss Mable Monroe, Norfolk, Va.; F. P. Ingman, Baltimore, Md.; C. A. Loud, Staunton, Va.

Murphy's Hotel.—J. P. Williamson, Danville, Va.; A. J. Umrich, New York; Owen Hackett and wife, New York; M. B. Wormley, King William, Va.; T. B. Jennings and wife, Hanover, Va.; G. H. Johnson, Atlanta, Ga.; Hugo Ainal and wife, Norfolk, Va.; L. O. Mayer, Cincinnati, O.; M. O'Meara, Jr., Lynchburg, Va.; P. McGeehee, Lynchburg, Va.; J. A. Perry, New York; S. W. Huff, Baltimore, Md.; S. Aaron, Georgia; W. B. Hays, Norfolk; Mark M. Pearson, Norfolk; M. J. Manning, Norfolk; Richard F. Marvin, Brooklyn, N. Y.; James T. Marvin, Philadelphia, Pa.; John M. Dunbar, Baltimore, Md.

American Hotel.—W. E. Grigg, Boston, Mass.; J. W. Johnson, Mrs. W. A. Ross, Keokuk, Va.; J. S. Ross, William and Mary College; J. P. Clark, Orange Courthouse, Va.; T. H. Ben and wife, C. Carter, Miss R. L. Williams, James City county, Va.; Isaac B. Davenport, William E. F. Lintz and wife, West Point, Va.; M. A. Smith, High Point, N. C.; Henry Larra, W. A. Ray, R. B. Smith, Iron Gate, Va.

Hines Lodge.

On Friday night District Deputies Grand-Chancellor Richard W. Flournoy, assisted by Past-Chancellors J. H. Chapman, Jr., and R. E. Cox as grand prelate and grand master at arms, respectively, installed the following officers of Hines Lodge, No. 17, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, for the ensuing term: R. J. Henry, past chancellor; Herbert F. Fox, chancellor commander; Edward W. Brown, vice-chancellor; Stephen C. Jones, prelate; S. T. Beach, keeper of records and seal; J. Courtney, master of finances; Taylor H. Howell, master of exchange; R. C. Cox, master at arms; J. J. Mize, inner guard; C. T. Blankenship, Jr., outer guard.

Returned from Bedford City.

Mr. W. S. Fox, superintendent of the city public schools, and several school superintendents from the counties around Richmond, Professor and Mrs. S. T. Pendleton, principal of Central school, returned yesterday from Bedford City, where they have been in attendance upon the Conference of Superintendents and Teachers.

The teachers will remain for about thirty days at the State Normal School, conducted by Superintendent of Schools, of Lynchburg.

Two Boys Burned by Powder.

Willie Schwarzchild, the ten-year-old nephew of Mr. Leo Schwarzchild, and a young son of Mr. Joseph Anthony, while firing of powder yesterday were severely burned.

Young Schwarzchild was more severely injured of the two, being burned about the face, hands and legs.

A LIVE SNAKE STORY.

Mr. Edwin C. Sheld killed a Very Curious Reptile Recently.

A gentleman in this city is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Edwin C. Sheld, son of Mr. Alfred Sheld, who has been in lower Florida for some months at his father's orange grove, Port Pleasant. Mr. Sheld writes of having killed a few days since a very curious and unknown species of snake, which he has named the "body-a dark mahogany color, was covered with a hard substance, resembling a shell, and was about four feet long, and six inches in diameter. The end of his tail was carried in the air, which under excitement was lashed back and forth.

Mr. Sheld was in the act of putting up some oranges for his father in this city when he discovered the snake under a large pile of fruit. He had a narrow escape from being bitten, but he had been down back into the shell.

The oldest inhabitants of that part of Florida, De Soto county, were uncertain as to the name of the snake. Mr. Sheld will have the reptile prepared by a taxidermist to preserve it to posterity.

A Tag Party.

The Polka-Dot Club, an organization of Richmond young men, are now off for Newport News for Cobb's Island on a specially chartered tug.

This club is composed of the following named young men: H. E. Lipscomb, S. S. Morton, G. W. Taylor, Jr., John Reed, P. L. Reed, Charles Reed, George Reed, C. H. Crow, G. P. Patterson, E. W. Sitt, Emmet Shepherd, Julian Skelton, L. W. Howard, Gordon, Henry Weil, R. H. Harrison, J. Gordon, Christian, Lee Grant, Gordon Fitzwilson, David Whitehead, Alvin Whitehead, Robert Whitlock, Jr., Edward Skinner, George Warren, Chappert James, Percy Gilpin, J. N. Limeburner and L. H. Shiner.

The party left for the island yesterday morning, after touching at Cobb's Island, Old Point and other places.

Alarms Last Evening.

The alarm of fire turned in from Box 127 at 11:25 last evening was caused by a trifling scare from exploding fireworks. The department answered the alarm, but returned without turning on the water, as no fire could be found.

A still alarm was given last night caused by some burning trash at the corner of Leitch and South streets. The house watchman on the Broad-street station answered the call.

Personal and General.

Mr. Harry Gustaf left the city yesterday for a short stay at the White.

Dr. B. L. Winston, of Hanover Courthouse, was in the city yesterday.

Mr. A. L. Straus and family are summering at the Letha Springs, near Amelia Courthouse.

Dr. Jacob Michaux, after a severe indisposition of several days, is again able to be about.

Misses Maria Cowardin, Florence Meyer, and Rena Talley are visiting friends in New Kent county.

Mrs. P. C. Edwards has left for Winston, N. C., where she expects to spend the summer with her relatives, Mrs. L. G. Neale.

Mr. Morris L. Myers and Mr. Ned Rosenstock of Petersburg, are the guests of Mrs. Leithmuth.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Guggenheimer, of Lynchburg, are in the city, the guests of Mrs. M. Rosenbaum.

Cadet Hunsdon Cary, son of Colonel W. Miles Cary, of the Governor's staff, left for Old Point and other places on the coast.

Hon. James T. Epps, the Democratic Congressman from the Fourth district, was in Richmond yesterday, and paid a brief visit to the Times.

Mrs. Joseph L. Levy and family, accompanied by Mrs. Myra Rose Hutzler, left yesterday for the mountains of Virginia, where they will spend the summer.

The Montefiore Literary Association will have an excursion to Dutch Gap on board the steamer Ariel on Thursday, July 9th. The Blues band will entertain the excursionists with some select music, and a delightful time is expected by all.

FATAL BALLOON ASCENSION.

A Lady and a Man Killed by Falling to the Ground in Ohio.

AKRON, O., July 4.—Fully 8,000 people assembled here to-day to see Professor Brady, of Cleveland, make a balloon ascension and parachute leap. When the word was given and the balloon shot upward, the multitude was horrified to see a man hanging head downwards immediately below the mouth of the balloon. The man, whose leg was entangled in a rope, disentangled himself and dropped to the ground, striking in such a way that he was fatally hurt. The name of the man killed was William Hennessy, a resident of this place, who was helping to inflate the balloon. He was fifty years old, and leaves a widow and four children.

BEWILDERING BALLOON ASCENSION AT ELYRA, O., to-day a strong gust of wind caught the airship and dragged the ropes on which she was sitting through the trees. She was not able to retain her hold and fell to the ground, a distance of six feet. She was instantly killed. Every rib in her body was broken.

MISSOURI FOR CLEVELAND.

An Overwhelming Majority of the Democratic Editors Favor the Great Leader.

St. Louis, Mo., July 4.—An afternoon paper in a canvass of the national political situation in the State of Missouri through the editors of 100 newspapers give their preferences as follows: Cleveland, 48; scattering, 4; Blaine, 26; Harrison, 15; McKinley, 10; scattering, 3.

Grover Cleveland is the strongest Democratic candidate at the present time, but his views on the silver question have a strong influence quite a number who otherwise favor his nomination. The Republican editors largely favor the nomination of Blaine. Harrison is second choice, and McKinley is third. McKinley will be a strong favorite, provided he carries the State of Ohio. If the delegates were to be chosen this summer in Missouri, the resume tends to show that solid votes would be cast for Cleveland and Blaine.

Not Exactly a Sham Battle.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., July 4.—Fifty thousand people witnessed the sham battle at their fair grounds, conducted by Todd Post, of Youngstown, assisted by Buckley and the other posts of Akron, presenting Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. A signal rocket struck Bessie Cronin, aged seven, the daughter of Mr. John Cronin, a widow on the forehead, killing her almost instantly. Her sister, standing by her, was terribly burned, and Katie Fleming, aged fourteen, had her left eye blown out. Mrs. Eliza Russell, of Conaway, was badly injured by a rocket, and Dr. J. J. Conaway, a surgeon, was accidentally shot in the side by a "rebel" veteran. He will recover. John Reed received a bad cut from a rocket stick.

Another Death in Lynchburg.

LYNCHBURG, Va., July 4.—[Special.]—Another death of a well-known citizen occurred to-day at his residence on Taylor street. Mr. Milton Holmes, a young man formerly of Baltimore, but for several years a resident of this city as agent of Reynolds Tobacco Company, died to-day of typhoid fever. He had many friends.

Professor Wyatt was buried to-day from the First Presbyterian church, attended by a host of friends.

A large number of the gun club of this city, headed by Captain A. Stockton Terry, went

to Richmond to contest the prizes with the Richmond club today. Some of them are crack marksmen, and will be surprised if they do not come away with some of the laurels.

Colored Fires.

It may be taken for granted that many readers will be interested to learn how the colored fires with which the "birthday of our country" is popularly celebrated are prepared. The process of combining the materials is simple. Striking differences in color are produced by slight changes in composition. The Western Druggist gives some formula which clear up the mystery of these strange effects.

For the production of red, green, yellow, and blue fires one-fifth part of the composition is shellac. As this is a constant quantity it is apparent at once that the shellac has nothing to do with determining the color. It serves the purpose that charcoal does in the manufacture of gunpowder, it holds the other elements in desired form and regulates the rate of combustion.

Another fifth part of the several compounds is the chlorate of potassium. This is used for the detonating effect; to startle the beholder with the crackling sound and with the scattering of the fire. Of itself it would give a white light and would burn with intense energy. It imparts "go" to the rocket.

The remaining three-fifths are what give color to the flame. They differ, of course, in the four compounds. For producing red fire nitrate of strontium is used; for green, nitrate of barium; for yellow, nitrate of sodium; and for blue, ammonia sulphate of copper. As we find nitrates used for the first three colors named, it is plain that the effect is determined wholly by the use of respectively strontium, barium and sodium. It is equally true that the blue is the result of the burning of copper.

Violet and purple flames are composite. To produce the violet flame and copper and sulphur are burned together. For purple, strontium and calcium are burned with just a little copper. The fumes of calcium are particularly harmful, and all these substances yield gases that ought not to be freely breathed. Very striking effects could be obtained by using nickel, arsenic and iron. They would burn with intense energy, but their use would be dangerous to health.—Washington Post.

For a Summer-Girl's Trunk.

If you wear a duffy bang, you want your hair shaved.

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man died, however, the happy possessor of this fortune went to the altar and was married. The couple then took up their residence in Hamburg, where they have resided for the last six years. Recently they arrived from Copenhagen a relative of Herr Nielsen, who by their marriage considered the spirit of his relative's last will and testament had been departed from, and demanded the restitution of the 40,000 crowns. The matter is now before a court of law.—London News.

Nine Rules for Bathing.

Avoid bathing within two hours after a meal.

Avoid bathing when exhausted by fatigue or from any other cause.

Avoid bathing when the body is cooling after perspiration.

Avoid bathing altogether in the open air if after having been a short time in the water it causes a sense of chilliness and numbness of the hands and feet.

Bathe when the body is warm, provided no time is lost getting into the water.

Avoid chilling the body by sitting or standing undressed on the banks or in boats after having been in the water.

Don't remain too long in the water; leave the water immediately if there is the slightest feeling of chilliness.

The vigorous and strong may bathe early in the morning on an empty stomach. The young and those who are weak would better bathe two or three hours after a meal—the best time for such is from two to three hours after breakfast.

Those who are subject to attacks of giddiness or faintness, and those who suffer from palpitation and other sense of discomfort at the heart should not bathe.

A Real Summer Danger.

To talk of guarding against cold in summer seems absurd, and yet it is as necessary as in winter. Where the climate is changeable, a hot day is often followed by a cool evening, or a sudden rain-storm chills the air or a cold wind springs up gratefully after the heat, but dangerous to those who are thinly clad unless they are protected from it by proper covering. Cotton is a good conductor of heat and allows it to escape rapidly from the surface of the body. As soon as the surrounding air becomes cooler than the skin it steals the heat which the body requires for its own needs. A fresh supply of heat must be produced, and thus the system is overtaxed to supply the demands of the robber. Flannel is a bad conductor, and guards the tender body more faithfully, retaining the heat.

Charity Begins at Home.

The food a farmer provides has a great deal to do with his intellect and that of his family. We make a mistake when we provide our food from the coarsest foods. Do not select the best products of the farm and keep the poorest for your own consumption.—F. D. Curtis.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

Subscriptions to the Stock of the Georgia and Alabama Investment Company.